

**Amendments to the Claims:**

A detailed listing of all the claims that are, or were, in the application is presented below. Current amendments to the claims, including additions being shown by underlining and deletions being shown by strikethrough or double brackets, are expressed in the listing.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising
  - a) a ricinoleic acid component selected from the group consisting of castor oil, ricinoleic acid, castor oil estolide, ricinoleic acid estolide and combinations thereof,
  - b) an ~~epoxy group containing compound selected from the group consisting of epoxy resins, epoxidized vegetable oil oils and combinations thereof, and~~
  - c) a polycarboxylic acid crosslinker.

Claim 2 (Canceled).

3. (Original) The composition of claim 1, further comprising an additional component selected from the group consisting of a crosslinking catalyst, a filler and combinations thereof.

4. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the crosslinking catalyst is a free radical generating catalyst.

5. (Original) The composition of claim 4, wherein the crosslinking catalyst is a thermally activated free radical initiator.

6. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[4]] 1, wherein the composition further comprises a free radical generating catalyst selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane, 1, 4-di- (2-tert-

butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, tert-butyl cumyl peroxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 4, 4-trimethylpent-2 hydroperoxide, diisopropylbenzene monohydroperoxide, cumyl hydroperoxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide and combinations thereof.

Claims 7 and 8 (Canceled).

9. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the filler is selected from the group consisting of wood flour, limestone, titanium dioxide, kaolin clay and combinations thereof.

10. (Original) The composition of claim 3, wherein the filler comprises powdered limestone.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[3]] 1, wherein the epoxy group-containing compound selected from the group consisting of tetraglycidal diaminodiphenyl methane, diglycidyl ether of bisphenol A, epoxidized vegetable oil is epoxidized soybean oil, and combinations thereof.

12. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 1, wherein the crosslinker comprises a polycarboxylic acid and another crosslinker [[is]] selected from the group consisting of a polyfunctional amine, a polycarboxylic acid, a polyacrylate and combinations thereof.

13. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[12]] 1, wherein the polycarboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of sebacic acid, citric acid and combinations thereof.

14. (Original) The composition of claim 12, wherein the polyfunctional amine is selected from the group consisting of isophoronediamine, 1,2-diaminocyclohexane, bis-p-

aminocyclohexylmethane, 1,3-BAC high reactive cycloaliphatic diamines, diethylenetriamine, 4,4'-isopropylidenediamine, 1,4-diaminobutane, triethylene glycol diamine, and combinations thereof.

15. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the epoxy group-containing compound comprises a combination of an epoxy resin and an epoxidized vegetable oil.

16. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the ricinoleic acid component is a ricinoleic acid estolide.

17. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 16, wherein the ricinoleic acid component is an estolide prepared by enzyme-catalyzed polymerization.

18. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 17, wherein the enzyme is a lipase derived from *Candida Antarctica* B.

Claims 19 and 20 (Canceled).

21. (Original) A composition comprising the reaction product of the composition of claim 1.

22. (Original) A composition comprising the reaction product of a composition comprising an additional component selected from the group consisting of a crosslinking catalyst, a filler and combinations thereof, and the composition of claim 21.

23. (Original) The composition of claim 22, wherein the additional component is a crosslinking catalyst selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane, 1, 4-di- (2-tert-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, tert-butyl cumyl peroxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 4, 4-trimethylpentyl-2 hydroperoxide,

diisopropylbenzene monohydroperoxide, cumyl hydroperoxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide and combinations thereof.

24. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 21, wherein the crosslinker comprises a polycarboxylic acid and another crosslinker [[is]] selected from the group consisting of a polyfunctional amine, ~~a polycarboxylic acid~~, a polyacrylate and combinations thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 24, wherein the other crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of ~~sebacic acid, citric acid,~~ isophoronediamine, 1,2-diaminocyclohexane, bis-p-aminocyclohexylmethane, 1,3-BAC high reactive cycloaliphatic diamines, diethylenetriamine, 4,4'-isopropylidenediamine, 1,4-diaminobutane, triethylene glycol diamine and combinations thereof.

26. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 24, wherein the epoxy group-containing compound epoxidized vegetable oil is epoxidized soybean oil.

27. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 24, wherein the ricinoleic acid component is an estolide prepared by enzyme-catalyzed polymerization.

Claims 28 to 70 (Canceled).

71. (New) The composition of claim 6, wherein the free radical generating catalyst is 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane.

72. (New) The composition of claim 13, further comprising a free radical generating catalyst selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane, 1, 4-di- (2-tert-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, tert-butyl cumyl peroxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 4, 4-trimethylpent-2 hydroperoxide,

diisopropylbenzene monohydroperoxide, cumyl hydroperoxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide and combinations thereof.

73. (New) The composition of claim 72, wherein the free radical generating catalyst is 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane.

74. (New) A composition comprising

- a) a ricinoleic acid component selected from the group consisting of castor oil, ricinoleic acid, castor oil estolide, ricinoleic acid estolide and combinations thereof,
- b) an epoxy group-containing compound selected from the group consisting of epoxy resins, epoxidized vegetable oils and combinations thereof,
- c) a crosslinker, and
- d) a free radical generating catalyst selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane, 1, 4-di- (2-tert-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, tert-butyl cumyl peroxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 4, 4-trimethylpent-2-hydroperoxide, diisopropylbenzene monohydroperoxide, cumyl hydroperoxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide and combinations thereof.

75. (New) The composition of claim 74, wherein the free radical generating catalyst is 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane.

76. (New) The composition of claim 74, wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of sebacic acid, citric acid and combinations thereof.

77. (New) The composition of claim 74, wherein the epoxy group-containing compound is epoxidized soybean oil.

78. (New) A composition comprising

- a) a fatty acid component selected from the group consisting of castor oil, castor oil estolide, ricinoleic acid estolide and combinations thereof,
- b) an epoxy group-containing compound selected from the group consisting of epoxy resins, epoxidized vegetable oils and combinations thereof, and
- c) a crosslinker selected from the group consisting of a polycarboxylic acid, a polyacrylate and combinations thereof.

79. (New) The composition of claim 78, wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of sebacic acid, citric acid and combinations thereof.

80. (New) The composition of claim 78, wherein the epoxy group-containing compound is epoxidized soybean oil.

81. (New) The composition of claim 78, further comprising a free radical generating catalyst selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane, 1, 4-di- (2-tert-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, tert-butyl cumyl peroxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 4, 4-trimethylpent-2 hydroperoxide, diisopropylbenzene monohydroperoxide, cumyl hydroperoxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide and combinations thereof.

82. (New) The composition of claim 81, wherein the free radical generating catalyst is 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane.

83. (New) A composition comprising

- a) a ricinoleic acid component selected from the group consisting of ricinoleic acid, castor oil, castor oil estolide, ricinoleic acid estolide and combinations thereof,
- b) an epoxy group-containing compound selected from the group consisting of epoxy resins, epoxidized vegetable oils and combinations thereof, and
- c) a polyacrylate crosslinker.

84. (New) The composition of claim 83, wherein the epoxy group-containing compound is epoxidized soybean oil.

85. (New) The composition of claim 83, further comprising a free radical generating catalyst selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane, 1, 4-di- (2-tert-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, tert-butyl cumyl peroxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 4, 4-trimethylpent-2 hydroperoxide, diisopropylbenzene monohydroperoxide, cumyl hydroperoxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide and combinations thereof.

86. (New) The composition of claim 85, wherein the free radical generating catalyst is 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane.

87. (New) A binder consisting essentially of  
a) a ricinoleic acid component selected from the group consisting of ricinoleic acid, castor oil, ricinoleic acid, castor oil estolide, ricinoleic acid estolide and combinations thereof,  
b) an epoxidized vegetable oil, and  
c) a crosslinker.

88. (New) The binder of claim 87, wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of a polyfunctional amine, a polycarboxylic acid, a polyacrylate and combinations thereof.

89. (New) The composition of claim 87, wherein the crosslinker is selected from the group consisting of sebacic acid, citric acid and combinations thereof.

90. (New) The composition of claim 87, wherein the epoxidized vegetable oil is epoxidized soybean oil.

91. (New) The composition of claim 87, further comprising a free radical generating catalyst selected from the group consisting of 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane, 1, 4-di- (2-tert-butylperoxyisopropyl) benzene, tert-butyl cumyl peroxide, di-tert-butyl peroxide, 2, 4, 4-trimethylpent-2 hydroperoxide, diisopropylbenzene monohydroperoxide, cumyl hydroperoxide, 2, 5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane peroxide, methyl ethyl ketone peroxide, dicumyl peroxide, dibenzoyl peroxide and combinations thereof.

92. (New) The composition of claim 91, wherein the free radical generating catalyst is 2,5-dimethyl-2, 5-di (tert-butylperoxy) hexane.

93. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 21, wherein the epoxy group-containing compound comprises a combination of an epoxy resin and an epoxidized vegetable oil.

94. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 21, wherein the ricinoleic acid component is a ricinoleic acid estolide.

95. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 94, wherein the ricinoleic acid component is an estolide prepared by enzyme-catalyzed polymerization.

96. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 95, wherein the enzyme is a lipase derived from *Candida Antarctica* B.